



From February 2025 (Volume 184)





Another volume of very different thoughts, photos and comments and my excuses for the content of this volume are shown on the last page.

Gaza and Trump are making news daily with some outrageous declarations by Trump so time will show how the world reacts. He has the power of a very influential nation behind him so maybe the USA alone can change things.

Change in Greenland, Mexico, Panama...relations with China and Canada etc are all bubbling away so these **'Photo History'** may show a very different world in future volumes.

Lynn and I are now very aware of both UK politicians and world leaders all having their own agendas and none of them represent us, or even their own populations.

Cynical I know, but when we hear them speak, avoiding answering relevant questions we can so easily see they are coached in avoiding being 'out on a limb' and so often we see total turn-arounds and disingenuous speeches. Maybe it's age that makes us cynical because I, for one, previously really believed that some politicians were genuine people but I feel now I was naive. Political pressure must make some of those who go into politics for the common good, change their ways or maybe they bow down to pressure behind the scenes. I'm not privy to the reasons but I am very aware of the results.

My main local grouse..(oh here he goes again") is that locally our previous administration bought land from affluent land-owners turning them into parks for the local people. A few generations later these parks are enjoyed by so many (see the photos alone in this volume). Every age, every nationality, so why, why does our local administration, who should be our elected representatives, sell off the land. This is a rhetorical question because it is so obvious. It is to attempt to monetise the land and patch up gross overspending. Parks and green Belt are needed far more than plush tables and chairs in the vast civic centre.

Anyone one speaks to values our parks and open spaces so how and why do we allow them to be sold. It is not there to be sold. it is there to be enjoyed. The answer is apathy.

Sorry to go on about it but as you can see I am very violently opposed to this situation and any way possible I hope to be able to turn this around and leave these 'green lungs' for future generations.

On a different tack...family and friends

Lynn's upcoming birthday is, by her very vocal command, will be a 'low-key' family only lunch with NO singing, bunting, cake or strippers. The family concur with this and we are looking forward to a fun family gathering next week.

Larnie is out in The Landmark Hotel by herself enjoying a couple of days of being pampered and we so admire the fact that she has the confidence to do this alone. She also goes to cinema, galleries and restaurants alone despite the lovely Jake always being with her at other times. We just had a chat via video...so great the way we always keep in touch

DP is busy with setting up a resurrected Shindig and is very much pre-occupied with this and the forth-coming Panama gig after Lynns' party too.

Beau is studying really hard and we chat via WhatsApp and he seems very happy with Mena and also spends time with Ottie...who, believe it or not, we haven't met yet. Mena has a new job but in her words" it is boring, but the money is great"

Tammy is such a great girl..well, I guess I must be awake to the fact that possibly 'girl' is not the correct word. But how can we have a daughter that is well over 50?? Don't answer that!. She looks after The Larn so well and we honestly wonder how she will cope when The Larn eventually leaves, But, so saying, Tammy is also a great person at coping with what ever is thrown at her and her many friends prove that.

Talking of friends, we are so privileged to have so many friends of every age and also many new ones. The variety of opinions, fun and time spent together has given us a new dimension to our lives and we love it.

Finally, talking of love, I am so honoured to have such a great wife. (Yes that sounds corny but I honestly feel it is a special relationship) I will leave out all the shmooze and just say that over 61 years of marriage has been a fantastic way to spend my life ..I couldn't have planned it any better.. Feb'25



Ode to my Special Wife on her 80th ...Feb 2025

Where do I start this very special ode



Her Park run shows us all she's never slowed

Looking after others is Lynn's special flair



Plates full of goodies and then more to spare



Her hospitality is legendary and sets a high bar

We nominate her as the 'Enough To Eat Czar'

Putting others first is her main concern

Racing around endlessly her calories to burn

She's one in a million and totally unique



Watching me carefully when a juice I do sneak

There's so many features I may need more paper

But after over 60 years I'm still in awe

Of being married to a girl with never a flaw

To be married to another is something I'd hate



Every time we go out 'it's like our first date'

Yes we bicker for Britain and even make quite a racket



But who else at 80 can wear a bomber jacket

We are so well matched both forgetting dates and names



So well matched in both Scrabble and games



Ode to my Special Wife on her 80th ...Feb 2025



"Move them
Mick!!



Telling me to move my slippers is so repetitive
And I'm so proud of your runs...with you so competitive.
Coming home when I see you busy in the kitchen
I run to help and love to pitch in.
Who could have known when we were so young



That such devotion and love would have sprung
I know my ode may seem very corny
And, yes, I'll resist using the rhyming word 'horny'
But seriously Lynn you are everything to me
And my best decision was making you Mrs Kley
Thank you darling for everything you do
I love you so much so remember that's true
It's so hard to remind myself you are now 80
But hubby is bald and increasingly weighty
Others look at us and I can see what they think



That old guy with that doll and then they wink.
But as we age you honestly look fantastic
Everything one sees is you...nothing plastic
My ode of love about you being eye popping



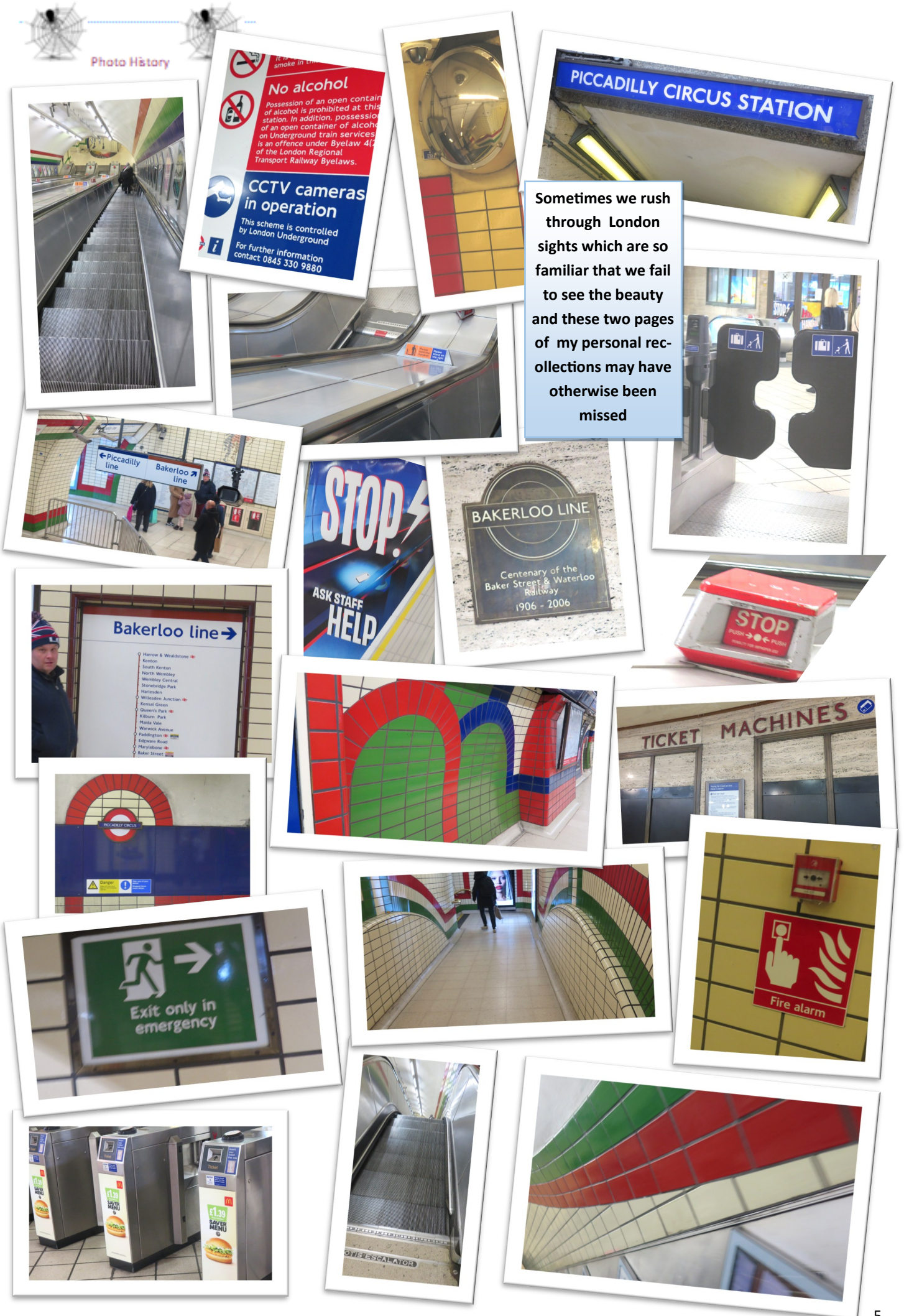
Must terminate now...you're back with the shopping



Ode written hastily while my lovely missus was at Sainsbury's..

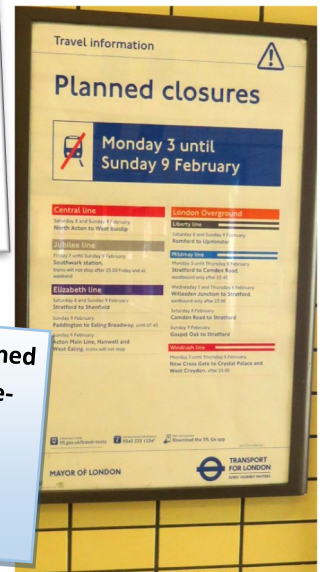
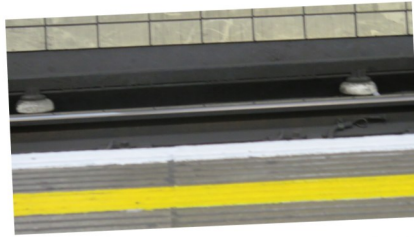
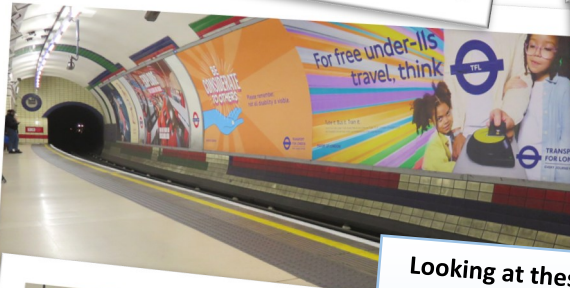
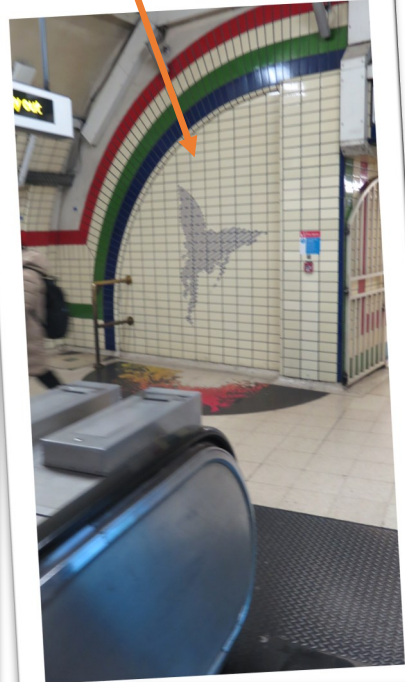
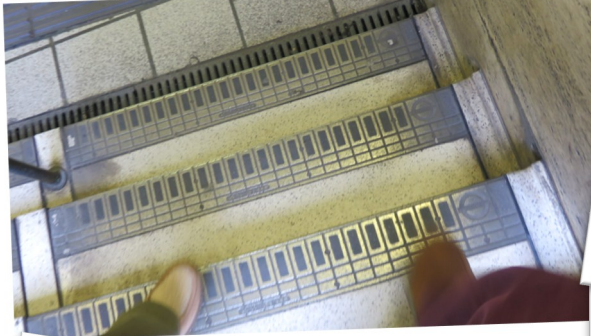
Photo History

Sometimes we rush through London sights which are so familiar that we fail to see the beauty and these two pages of my personal recollections may have otherwise been missed





How many time did we pass 'Eros' in mosaics at Picadilly Station



Looking at these small icons of travel in London has opened our eyes and Lynn and I agree that these have really become so 'everyday' that we fail to see the beauty and thought that has gone into developing them.

Expect more!!

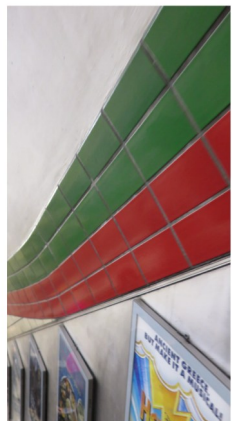




Photo History



Walker, dogs and cyclists
all enjoying our park

"Not more bl**y" Grovelands shots" I hear you saying but quite honestly Lynn and I feel so lucky to have this fantastic resource across the road. As soon as the weather shows a glimmer of sun we (and many other) appear there to enjoy just being out in such a great environment. Surely just enjoying moments like this can make such a difference to the day.



February 2025



Having enjoyed the lake as long ago as the early 1950s with Mum and Dad and even taken boats out on in past years I really take it for granted. It feels like it has 'always been there' However the small brook known as the Bourne crossed the privately owned estate of Southgate Grove owned by a Quaker , Walker Gray around 1797 .



The Bourne (after which our road is named) was then partly dammed by the renowned landscape designer , Humphry Repton forming the lake which was subsequently increased in size to enhance the estate. The estate became Groveland's Park for local benefit when Southgate Council wisely bought it in 1913

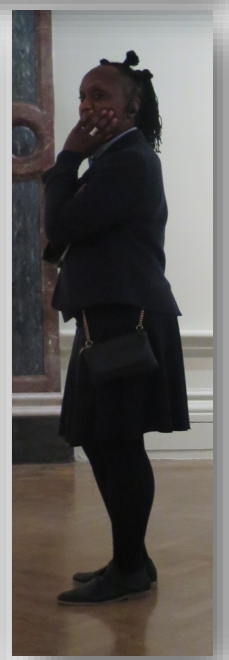
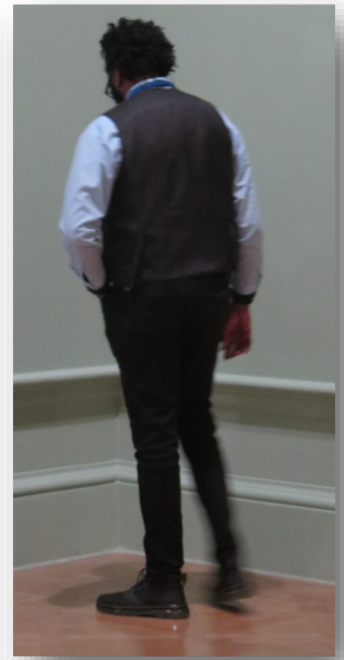




Feb 2025. Lynn and I went to see this Brasil, Brasil exhibition which we found fascinating really well curated , bright and colourful. However the other exhibition of Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo was less wonderful (in our eyes anyway) Despite the obvious brilliance of their work it was a less imposing exhibition.



One thing I have been very aware of when walking around with my camera is that people are preoccupied and unaware of what great subjects they , themselves make in these varied galleries.







I hope you will agree that this page and the previous two pages show some really fascinating aspects of the exhibition that might otherwise not be seen.





Once again I have photographed some of my favourites but as space is limited here I have made a folder (#2934) which is on a loop and the paintings (with others) appear on my desktop home screen. I find this seems to highlight many that one hasn't really had the time to enjoy at the exhibition. Again, I leave you to judge for yourselves but obviously art is 'in the eye of the beholder' (just 33 works appear here)



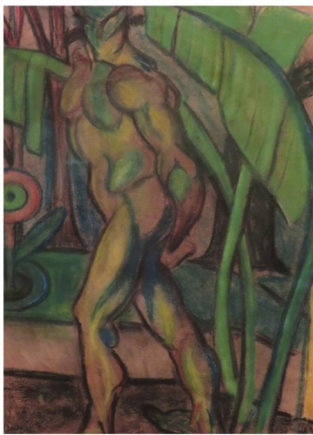


They are all so different that they really should be on a page by themselves but my Photo History would appear like a gallery catalogue so if you like the images please access the whole lot (on Folder #2934) of 'Photos' on my PC) and enjoy them at your leisure









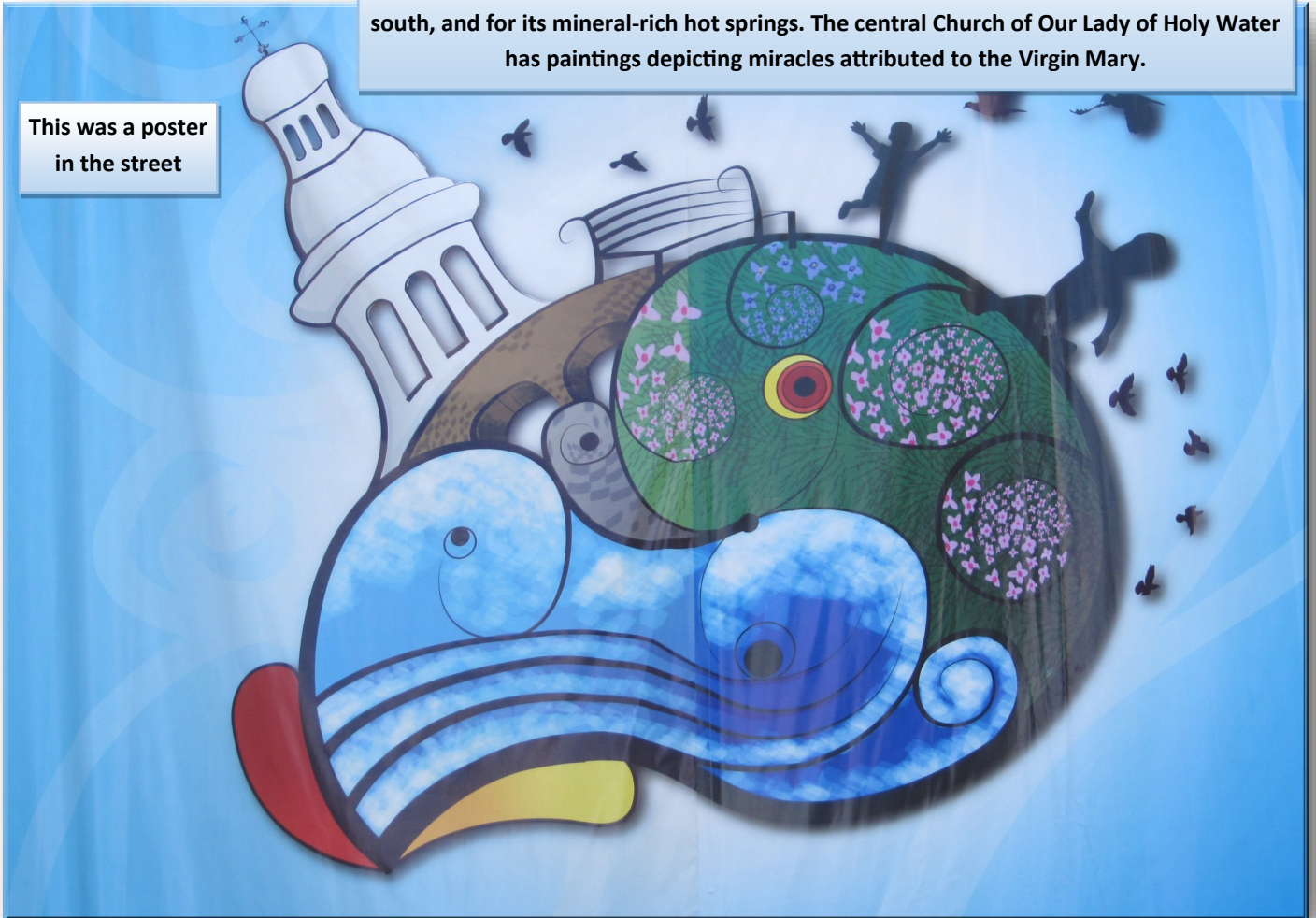






This exhibition put me in mind of a collection of paintings I photographed (In February 2012) in Baños de Agua Santa. This is a city in Ecuador's Tungurahua province close to the Amazon Basin. It's known for access to trails on the active Tungurahua volcano just south, and for its mineral-rich hot springs. The central Church of Our Lady of Holy Water has paintings depicting miracles attributed to the Virgin Mary.

This was a poster in the street



An ant-smoking poster

One of the fabulous paintings in a cafe





The vibrancy of these local paintings stayed with me all these years



The Central Church of Our Lady of Holy Water has paintings depicting miracles attributed to the Virgin Mary., but these 'everyday' objects were placed here by local people to protect them from the dangers of the volcanoes and were very moving



Looking back over this volume I am very aware of its emphasis on art in one form of another. Thinking about this I wonder if it reflects my current mood. I am very content with life and despite the horrors currently around the world maybe retreating into my 'comfort zone' of nostalgia gives me a sense of escapism or maybe it is to show that there is a great side to humanity which seems overshadowed by its seeming brutality. These volumes are, I guess, my take on life, and may not be representative of other people's views. This is very true. I say that if they disagree with me, there is nothing stopping them writing their own books .

Lynn, my fantastic wife is 80 in 3 days so I am so happy. 61 years married and we still laugh, chat, play Scrabble and bicker like it's going out of fashion ,,but the bond of love, trust and enjoying one another's company is always there.. Feb 8th 2025



Photo History





Photo History

